

### Remarks

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner acknowledged the claim to priority and the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner requested the Applicant to review the specification for errors. This has been done and a number of minor errors are being corrected by this Amendment.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to. In response the Abstract has been canceled and a new Abstract in conformance with 37 CFR1.72(b) has been added on a separate sheet of paper.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

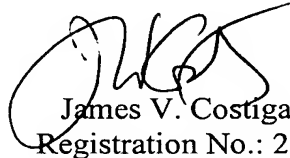
Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-12 have been canceled and new claims 13-22 have been presented by the Amendment. Care has been taken in drafting the newly presented claims to avoid the bases for the prior rejection under 35 U.S.C.112, second paragraph. The Applicant has noted that original claims 3 to 12 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

Accordingly, new claim 13 is allowable claim 3 because it combines the subject matter of original claims 1-3. For this reason, claim 13 is allowable.

New claims 14 to 22, substantially correspond to allowable claims 4 to 12 and, accordingly, it is believed that also new claims 14 to 22 are in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing, it is believed that the application should be allowed.

Respectfully Submitted

  
James V. Costigan  
Registration No.: 25,669

Correspondence Address:  
Hedman & Costigan, P.C.  
1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, N.Y. 10036-2646  
(212) 302-8989

I hereby certify that this  
correspondence is being  
deposited with the United States Postal Service as  
first class mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 11/13/03